

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 OES-06
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
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E O 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR GE UR
SUBJ: GDR COVERAGE OF THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT

SUMMARY:

1. THE GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE SECRETARY'S
MOSCOW VISIT RECEIVES PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE
IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND APRIL 1. THE TEXT OF THE
CONFERENCE IS PRINTED IN FULL, ALONG WITH GROMYKO'S
ADDITIONAL ANSWERS TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS, THE
US-SOVIET COMMUNIQUE, AND A SHORT REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S
REMARKS UPON DEPARTING FROM MOSCOW. ND'S COVERAGE WAS GENERALLY
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POSITIVE AND WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ND STRESSES GROMYKO'S REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET
UNION'S "UNCHANGED, CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE" FOR
CONCLUDING A SALT AGREEMENT WITH THE US IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT. IT EMPHASIZES THAT
THE SOVIET UNION WILL STICK TO ITS POLICY OF MAIN-

TAINING THE PEACE, CONTINUING DETENTE, AND ENDING
THE ARMS RACE.

3. HAVING SINGLED OUT THE POSITIVE, ND GOES ON
TO REPORT THAT GROMYKO CRITICIZED THE DISTORTIONS
AND "HASTY" DECLARATIONS ON THE TALKS ISSUED IN
WASHINGTON. THE SOVIETS HAD REJECTED THE SECRETARY'S
PROPOSALS BECAUSE THEY IGNORED PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS
REACHED AT VLADIVOSTOK AND BECAUSE THEY WERE
INTENDED TO UNDERMINE THE SECURITY OF THE USSR AND
ITS ALLIES AND TO CREATE ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGE FOR
THE US. ND REPORTS THAT GROMYKO LABELED THE PROPOSALS
UNREALISTIC AND SAID THEY CREATED ROADBLOCKS
TO A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. IT ALSO SINGLES OUT GROMYKO'S
REMARK THAT ONE CANNOT SPEAK OF POLITICAL STABILITY
WHEN A NEW GOVERNMENT CALLS INTO QUESTION AGREEMENTS
ARRIVED AT BY ITS PREDECESSOR.

4. RETURNING TO THE BRIGHT SIDE, ND MENTIONS
GROMYKO'S STATEMENT THAT THE USSR HAS "GREAT
PATIENCE" IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT IT STILL
INTENDS TO DEVELOP "GOOD, OR EVEN BETTER" RELATIONS
WITH THE US ON THE BASIS OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.
REPORT THAT GROMYKO WILL MEET THE SECRETARY AGAIN
IN MAY, ND NOTES THAT GROMYKO PRAISED THE MOSCOW
MEETING FOR AFFORDING A CHANCE FOR EACH SIDE TO GET
TO KNOW THE OTHER AND FOR PRESENTING THEIR
POSITIONS, AND REPORTS THAT EXPERTS WILL MEET FOR
DISCUSSION ON QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE MEETING. IT
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INCLUDES GROMYKO'S EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT THE US
WILL RECONSIDER ITS APPROVAL AND ARRIVE AT A
REALISTIC POSITION.

5. THE ND COVERAGE OF THE GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE
CONCLUDES WITH HIS CRITICISM OF ALL INTERFERENCE IN
SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNDER THE PRETEXT OF
PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, AND HIS ASSERTION THAT THE
SOVIET UNION DOES NOT NEED A SCHOOL MASTER.

6. IN A SHORT ITEM ON THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE
STATEMENT BASED ON TASS REPORTS, ND HAS THE
SECRETARY REFERRING TO THE TALKS AS USEFUL. IT
REFERS TO HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GOAL OF HIS TRIP
HAD NOT BEEN EASY, AND THAT BEFORE MEETING AGAIN IN MAY
BOTH SIDES WOULD FURTHER TREAT THE PROBLEMS DISCUSSED
IN MOSCOW AND WOULD COME TO REALIZE THAT THEIR
GOALS WERE SIMILAR. ND REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD MAKE PROGRESS

IN THIS AREA AND REACH AN AGREEMENT.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW VISIT WAS IN PROGRESS, ND STUCK TO STRAIGHTFORWARD COVERAGE WITHOUT COMMENTARY. ND REPORTED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED TO SOLVE BILATERAL PROBLEMS, BUT THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF US POLICY DID NOT COMPLY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE WHICH HAD TO BE OBSERVED IF RELATIONS WERE TO DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVELY.

8. EAST GERMAN COVERAGE THUS FAR EMPHASIZES THE POSITIVE IN THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, FOCUSING PRIMARILY ON THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES IN REACHING A NEW SALT AGREEMENT. WE NOTE THAT APART FROM ONE REFERENCE IN COVERING THE GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE, THE GDR HAS AVOIDED ANY DIRECT MENTION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN REPORTING ON THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW.POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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